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## **Claire West Joins Ballet Arizona's Management Team As School Business Manager**

(Phoenix, AZ): Ballet Arizona is pleased to announce that Claire West will join the Ballet Arizona management team as School Business Manager, effective June 4th, 2007.

Ballet Arizona hires Claire West as the School's top administrator. "Claire is highly skilled in aspects of analysis, strategic planning, team-building and relationship management," said Ballet Arizona Management Consultant, Kevin Myers. "We are very fortunate to welcome such a skilled and passionate professional to our team. Claire will play a vital role in generating increases in enrollment and awareness of the School, not only in Arizona, but across the country."

Ms. West joins The School of Ballet Arizona from the Arizona Commission on the Arts, where she was Performing Arts Director. While at the Commission, she administered more than \$1,000,000 in grants to more than 200 applicants. During her 16 years, she was responsible for the management of Arizona Dance on Tour, Meet the Composer/Arizona, Regional Touring, Artist Conversations, Field Forward Network programs; co-management of Creative Capital Pilot Project, Artist Career Advancement Program, Artist Projects Program, American Masterpieces Program and Consultant Services Program. Additionally, Ms. West has served as a team member Understanding Participation (a Wallace Foundation project to research participation in the arts); the Arts Stabilization Program and the Online Grants Committee.

Prior to her position with Arizona Commission on the Arts, Ms. West was Executive Director at the Orts Theatre of Dance in Tucson and Development Director/Assistant Director at Rockland Center for the Arts in Nyack, NY. Ms. West has served as a grants review panelist for the NEA, the Arizona Community Foundation and Western States Arts Federation, amongst others. She has been a lecturer and speaker for numerous organizations, including International Conference of the Arts in Society, Edinburgh, Scotland, the Association of Performing Arts Presenters; Western Arts Alliance Conference; Arizona State University and the Nebraska Arts Council.

"Representing the Arizona Commission on the Arts nationally and locally taught me the importance of putting a public face on a great organization," said Ms. West. "I look forward to sharing my experience in the discipline of dance, working with the Board and my keen budget management skills. What most attracts me is the regard in which I hold Ballet Arizona and its school: Ballet Arizona is one of my favorite companies in the country. I have great respect for Ms. Crowley's artistic integrity and I look forward to working on her team."

The School of Ballet Arizona is currently presenting its Summer Programs with a Repertory Intensive that runs until May 31<sup>st</sup> and Summer Intensive that begins June 4<sup>th</sup>. Classes are available for students of all levels from beginning to pre-professional and will feature an *all new* Boy's Program.

Contact the School at 602 381-0188 or visit [www.balletaz.org/school](http://www.balletaz.org/school) for more information.

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The School of Ballet Arizona is the official school of the Southwest's premier professional ballet company, Ballet Arizona. Focused on the tradition and discipline of classical ballet training, the School is committed to preparing students for a professional dance career. At the same time the School offers creative and diverse programs that educate and develop dance students of any age, background or experience. All students are trained in a manner that allows them to experience the joy of dance.

Led by School Director, Nancy Crowley and renowned Ballet Arizona Artistic Director, Ib Andersen, the School provides a positive, professional, and inspirational learning environment. The School features a distinguished staff of teachers and musicians who are joined by

Ballet Arizona artistic staff and company members. All students share in the tradition of learning from artists who have dedicated their lives to dance.

To schedule a media opportunity, including photos and interviews, please contact:

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